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LETTER DATED 17 MAY 1996 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Further to our note dated 28 June 1995 (S/1995/522) and with reference to our note dated 13 July 1995 (S/1995/569) concerning the Eritrean Government's collusion in conspiracy and its involvement in an action hostile to the Sudan, I have the honour, on instructions from my Government, to forward to you the annexed letter dated 13 May 1996 from Mr. Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan.

I request you to have the annexed letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Suleiman Mohamed MUSTAFA
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 13 May 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sudan addressed to the President of the Security Council

1. It is with deep regret and serious alarm that the Government of the Republic of the Sudan wishes to inform you, in your capacity as President of the Security Council for May 1996, that the Government of Eritrea is sponsoring and hosting so-called elements of the Sudanese armed resistance and the rebel movement in the southern Sudan, with a view to overthrowing the Government of the Sudan by armed force, thereby contravening all regional and international instruments governing the norms and principles of international relations, which enjoin respect for the sovereignty of States and non-interference in their internal affairs. The Eritrean Government persists in supporting these outlaw elements and encouraging their secessionist tendencies and continues to reveal its long-standing enmity towards the Sudan by escalating its policies of hostility to the Sudan.

2. The Sudan continues to take the view that it is important for the intentions of the Eritrean regime to be exposed and for the international community to be made aware of the Eritrean Government's repeated, persistent unlawful actions, as exemplified in its sponsoring and hosting the above-mentioned elements and providing them with military, communication and logistics facilities. It is for this reason that the Sudan drew the world's attention, through its letters of 28 June 1995 and 13 July 1995 (S/1995/522 and S/1995/569) to these practices, which are contrary to the most elementary rules of international behaviour.

3. The Sudan, which has sought to maintain a policy of self-control, desiring as it does to see peace, security and stability prevail in the region in particular and throughout Africa in general, refers to the renewed allegations that have been broadcast on the British Broadcasting Corporation's World Service concerning camps of the so-called "Sudanese alliance forces" in Eritrea. The BBC broadcast these allegations in a report carried on the "News Hour" programme on Friday, 10 May 1996. The salient features of that report were as follows:

(a) There are many training camps for elements of the so-called Sudanese resistance in Eritrea;

(b) The report presented a live recording of a military training operation for some of those elements in one such camp;

(c) In the course of the operation, the trainees fired at a picture of the President of the Sudanese National Council, Dr. Hasan Abdullah Al-Turabi;

(d) The leader of the so-called "alliance forces", Brigadier-General Abd Al-Aziz Khalid, stated in the course of the report's interview with him that their aim was to overthrow the Sudanese Government and that they had carried out military operations inside the Sudan from bases in Eritrean territory;

(e) The report alleged that the so-called Sudanese resistance had a radio transmitter in Eritrea;

(f) The programme included a recording of the voice of the President of Eritrea stating that Eritrea's support for the resistance movement that is working to overthrow the Sudanese Government was open-ended: "I would say the sky is the limit".

4. In view of the behaviour of the Eritrean regime, which has adopted a policy of aggression, hostility and fomenting crises in the region, engaging in such irresponsible actions as those described above and interfering in the internal affairs of other countries with a view to destabilizing them, jeopardizing their security and encroaching on their national sovereignty, it is clearly incumbent on the international community to enjoin the Eritrean regime to adhere to a responsible mode of conduct in its international relations and to abide by the Charter and the resolutions of the United Nations.

5. The Eritrean regime will have to bear alone the consequences of its aggressive behaviour and its provocative actions, both open and secret, against the Sudan, since practices such as these can only serve to propel the region towards the danger of full-scale confrontation. The Sudan, while drawing the international community's attention to one particular instance of Eritrea's incessant conspiracies against it, stresses that the recent history of Eritrea since its independence has been filled with aggression, provocation and violations of international standards. The Sudan has no doubt that this must ultimately lead to increasing instability throughout the region.

6. The Government of the Sudan, which continues to affirm that it wholeheartedly desires good relations with all States, respecting their sovereignty and refraining from interference in their internal affairs, is saddened by the incessant series of aggressive acts directed against it by the Eritrean Government with a view to undermining its security, integrity and national unity and considers them to be hostile action incompatible with the international standards that should govern relations between States.

(Signed) Ali Osman Mohamed TAHA
Minister for Foreign Affairs

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